

#### Five Leading Causes of Death:

The Bedford County Health Council members were provided with county specific data from 1994 concerning the leading causes of death. The list is as follows:

1. Diseases of the Heart
2. Malignant Neoplasms
3. Cerebrovascular Disease
4. Accidents and Adverse Effects  
(Includes Motor Vehicle Accidents)
5. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases  
(Includes Bronchitis, Emphysema, and Asthma)

These are consistent with the leading causes of death across the state of Tennessee, as well as the United States.

#### **Teen Pregnancy**

Teen pregnancy in Bedford County decreased from 1993-1994 and then rose slightly 0.5% in 1995. The rate per 1,000 females aged 10-17 years decreased from 23.5 (42 pregnancies) in 1993 to 21.1 (38 pregnancies) in 1994. The 1995 rate for the county was 21.6 (39 pregnancies). Eighty-five percent of the teen births occurred in the white race. The teen pregnancy rate in the county is consistent with the rates in the state and the region. Those rates for the last three years are as follows: State- 1993 (23.3), 1994 (22.8) and 1995 (22.8); region - 1993 (21.6), 1994 (21.2), and 1995 (19.8).

#### **Birth Data**

Infant mortality (deaths within the first year following birth) and births to infants that are low-weight are important indicators of a community's health status.

Through presentations by the Community Development staff, the Health Council learned that in Bedford County, there were no infant deaths to the babies born to mothers ages 10-14 from 1992-1994 (4 babies). This is true for the South Central Region as well. Statewide the infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births) was highest in the 10-14 years age group followed by the 15-17 years age group.

Low birthweight is a major problem in Bedford County for teen mothers, especially those 10-14 years. Thirty-three percent of babies born from 1992-1994 to mothers in this age group were low birthweight. This percentage is twice as high as the state (16.4%) and